

Judges Call Parley on Court; City Holds its Breath

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Your Complete Community Newspaper—Every Sunday and Thursday

Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1961

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FIVE ARRESTED IN KNIFE SLAYING

A Penny for your Thoughts

Success of the flight into space made by Comdr. Alan Shepard Friday prompted the question asked for today's column.

"If you had been invited to make the flight in the space ship with Comdr. Shepard, would you have accepted? What would your thoughts have been prior to the launching?"

June Lustig, 24002 Pennsylvan Ave., Lomita, student.

"No. I wouldn't have wanted to go along on that ride. If I had gone, I'd be wondering all the time if I would make it back or not. I would take a long slow look at everything on the ground before I left."

Marta Gonzales, 20602 Mariposa, jewelry sales.

"You couldn't have gotten me to go on that flight. I would have been thinking of my kids and husband constantly. It might not have come back. You have to have a certain amount of dare-devil in you to want to attempt something like that."

Lee Savage, 905 Fonthill student.

"I can't say I would liked to have gone because I know I'd have worried about getting back in one piece. It was a great asset to our country. If I had gone, I'd really have tried to do a good job of it."

Art Steele, 3302 Newton St., read sales driver.

"Yes, I would have accepted. It would have been a real challenge and besides I like to fly, even though this was quite a bit more than flying. I know I would have been saying a few prayers. I think they knew it wasn't going to fail or it wouldn't have been televised."

Julie Connor, 1807 W. 247th Lomita, drug clerk.

"I don't really think I would have wanted to go along. Let the men to this type of thing. But I do think after you really made up your mind to go, you would not let your thoughts dwell on family and friends; you just couldn't or you might change your mind."



OPENING DAY . . . More than 1000 Torrance Little Leaguers fill more than a block of Maple Ave. north of the Torrance Civic Center yesterday as they prepare to take off on their annual opening day parade. The Little Leaguers and their guests paraded east on Maricopa, south on

Crenshaw Blvd., and west to Madrona Ave. to give official notice that the 1961 season had arrived. In ball parks sprinkled all over the city, the cry later in the day was "Play Ball!"

(Herald Photo)

Insurance Man Heads Lions Club

Insurance executive William W. King, who resides at 25930 Matfield Drive, was elected president of the Torrance Lions Club this week to succeed Ralph Morris, industrial relations manager of Rome Cable.

Other officers elected to serve with King during the coming year include Fred Boren, Department of Employment, first vice president; Dale Harter, North High School principal, second vice president; Cecil Powell, assistant superintendent, Torrance Water Department, third vice president; Lysle Albrow, school administrator, secretary; and Clarence Clark, Bank of America, treasurer.

Other officers of the club will include Robert Williams, Halverson - Leavell Mortuary, taitwister; Ernest E. Harris, architect, Lion Tamer; and board members Del Wright, realtor, and Paul Ludwig, dispensing optician.

Installation has been scheduled for June 10, and the new officers will assume their duties as of July 1.

Here on Tuesday

Airport Tower Bids Causing a Busy Day

Tuesday will be a busy day for officials at the city hall as they attempt to receive, and approve bids for construction of a new control tower at Torrance Municipal Airport.

Airport Manager Jack Egan asked for the speedup to protect the wage rate decision of the Secretary of Labor which expires on Wednesday. The specifications of the project uses the current scale, Egan said.

Bids for the project are due in the city hall by 5 p.m. Monday.

WORK WILL begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday when the bids are opened in public by city officials. At 10:30 a.m., the airport staff, building department, engineers, and others are scheduled to review the bids.

The airport committee of the City Council is scheduled to take over at 11 a.m. and review the bids.

At 2 p.m., officials of the Federal Aviation Agency, which will pay 54 per cent of the cost, will take over the bids and review the proposals. The design of the tower and its construction are subject to the FAA which will take over the operation for the city when the tower is completed.

Rites Held For Marine Jet Pilot

Military services were held this week for Second Lt. Richard S. Welz, 24, a native of Torrance, who was killed in a crash of an F8U Crusader jet on April 28.

Lieutenant Welz, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephan Welz, of Manhattan Beach, was born in Torrance and has many relatives here, including his



RICHARD S. WELZ
Military Rites Held

grandmother, Mrs. Melvina Beckwith, 1322 Engracia Ave. Other relatives here include two aunts, Mrs. Frederick Cook at 2207 Carson St., and Mrs. Joe Hardin, 1736 Andre Ave.

The Marine officer was killed when his jet crashed while he was on a training exercise at Camp Pendleton. He had apparently just finished a strafing run when his aircraft flamed out and crashed.

Military rites were conducted at El Toro Marine Air Station.

No Threat To Torrance Court Seen

Local backers of a drive to obtain permanent facilities of the Southwest District Superior Court here — jubilant over the recommendation of a three-man committee of Superior Court judges in favor of Torrance — had reason to keep their fingers crossed at week's end.

A special meeting of all the county's judges was called for 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to consider the selection of a court site.

(Continued on page 7)

'Rumble' in Street Ends With Killing

Police will seek complaints Monday against five youths held on suspicion of murder in connection with the "senseless" knife slaying of a 19-year-old Torrance youth this week.

The five men, ranging in ages from 16 to 20, are accused of participating in a fight which erupted near Hickory Ave. and Carson St. on Thursday night and ended with the death of a sixth man as a result of the melee.

Dying at the Little Company of Mary Hospital about two hours after the "rumble" was William Clark Conger, of 5009 Sepulveda Blvd., who received two knife wounds in the arm, one in the hip, and one in the head. A preliminary autopsy report given to Torrance detectives Friday evening indicated that Conger died from the loss of blood.

ARRESTED by Lt. Don Hamilton and Sgt. H. B. Ingram of the detective bureau were Morris W. Gregory, 20, of Hermosa Beach; Richard A. Snyder, 20, 1624 Fern Ave.; Jack L. Stover, 17, of 18520 Burlin Ave.; David J. Di Meglio, 17, Redondo Beach, and Dennis Amundson, 18, of Redondo Beach.

Gregory and Snyder turned themselves in at the Torrance Police station after the battle, and the others were taken into custody at the Little

Company of Mary Hospital.

GREGORY AND Snyder, who were in one car, told police Conger and the other three youths forced their car to a halt and started for them with various weapons including a hammer, wrench and a chain.

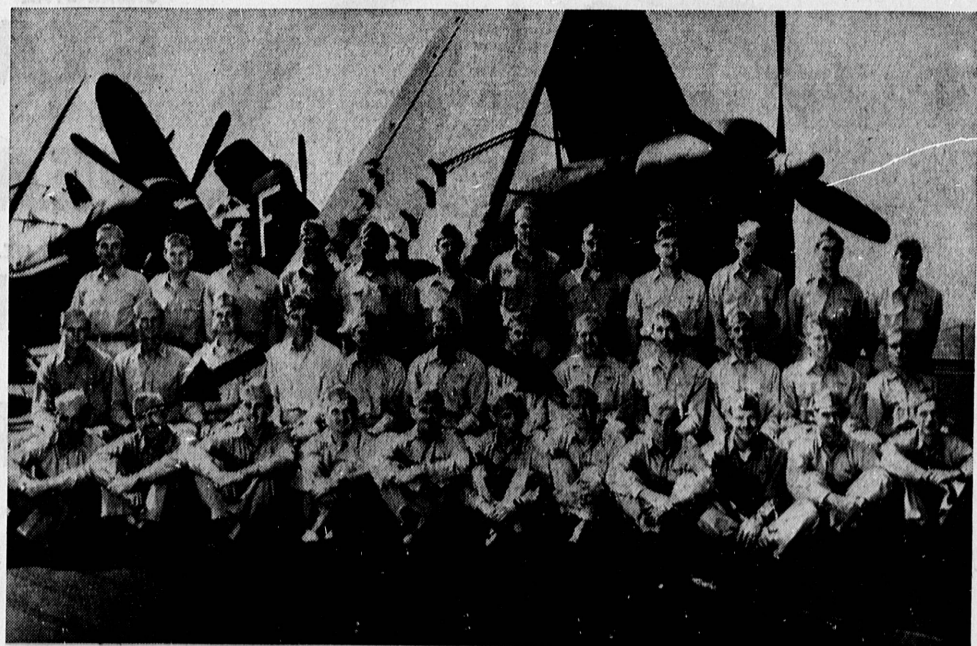
The pair said they were forced to defend themselves with a pair of seven-inch balanced throwing knives.

One of Conger's companions, Jack Stover, received a knife wound in the struggle which took place on Hickory Ave. about 100 ft. north of Carson St.

PIECING together the reports of the participants, detectives said the two cars of youths apparently met first at Maple Ave. and Torrance Blvd.

After exchanging words at the boulevard stop, the two groups proceeded east on Torrance Blvd. to Hickory Ave., and then south to the point just north of Carson St.

A nearby resident attempted to stop the fight, and then called police.



FUTURE SPACEMAN . . . Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard (center arrow) is pictured aboard the Carrier Roosevelt while serving in a Corsair squadron in 1948. Carl Echols (left arrow) of 20532 Eastwood Ave. and now in the insurance business watched his friend on television as he became the first American astronaut to control a spaceship in a perfectly executed flight early Friday.

Former Squadron Buddy 'Knew' Shepard Would Be Astronaut

By BOB WILTON
Herald Staff Writer

"Man, what a ride!" was astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr.'s grinning remark to the men who picked him up at sea following his ride in a spacecraft named "Freedom 7".

This remark was echoed by Carl Echols who flew in the same squadron and was in the same flight and test schools.

Echols retired as a full lieutenant from the Navy and Shepard continued on to become a commander and be the first man to make a pilot-controlled flight into space, 115 miles above the earth last Friday.

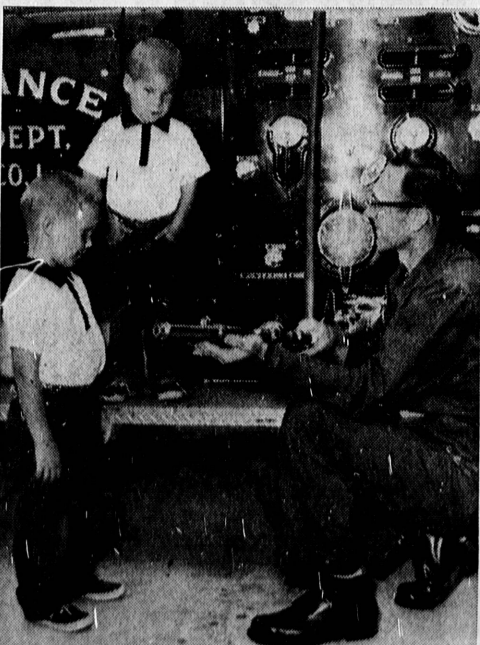
Echols, who lives at 20532 Eastwood Ave., has been in the insurance business since he retired in 1957. He told the HERALD Saturday that he "knew"

Shepard would be picked as the pilot of the space ship since early last week when in a dream he saw his buddy being locked in his capsule to await the blastoff.

Both Echols and Shepard were in the same squadron aboard the Carrier Roosevelt in 1948 and flew Corsairs on missions during this time. They were in Air Group 4, NATTC

and were stationed together in Jacksonville, Fla., for three years. The last time the two pilots saw each other was in Norfolk, Va., when Echols retired from Naval service.

The eyes of the world were on this historic breakthrough and Echols' were no exception along with his prayer for this was his buddy in that bell-shaped capsule perched on the nose of the Redstone rocket.



FASCINATED . . . Pete and Don Anson, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Anson, are shown Torrance Fire Dept. pumper by Engineer Chuck Reintsma. Boys attend Torrance Nursery School and made preview tour with other members and parents as Central Station held open house Saturday.

(Herald Photo)